

2023 Women of Discovery

The WINGS Women of Discovery Awards were established in 2003 to recognize extraordinary women making significant contributions to world knowledge and science through exploration.



2023 FELLOW

[CRISTINA GOETTSCH \(“Mitty”\) MITTERMEIER](#), Mexico
Conservation photographer, marine biologist, storyteller

Hailed as one of the most influential conservation photographers of our time, Mitty has dedicated her life to protecting the world’s oceans and wild places - inspiring millions of people to do the same. In 2005, she founded the [International League of Conservation Photographers](#) to provide a platform for photographers working on environmental issues, coining the phrase “conservation photography.” In 2014, she co-founded [SeaLegacy](#), a non-profit using strategic communications at the intersection of art, science and conservation to protect and rewild the ocean for the benefit of biodiversity, humanity and climate within our lifetimes.

Mitty’s work has been published in hundreds of magazines and media outlets, including National Geographic, TIME, CNN, McLean’s, The Men’s Journal and O. Her Limited Edition Prints are in private galleries and

public exhibitions around the world. She is a [Sony Artisan of Imagery](#) and aligns with [Rolex’s Perpetual Planet](#) initiative on collaborative efforts to preserve the natural world. In 2021, she was featured in [Welcome to Earth on Disney+](#). She has been honored with many awards, including the Smithsonian Conservation Photographer of the Year Award, the HIPA Humanity Content Creator Award, and the Imaging Award for Photographers who Give Back. In 2021, she received the [Seattle Aquarium’s Sylvia Earle Medal](#) and [Travel + Leisure’s Global Vision Award](#) and was named one of the [100 Latinos Most Committed to Climate Action](#). Along with partner Paul Nicklen, she was named a [2018 National Geographic Adventurer of the Year](#). [Real Leaders](#) lists Mitty as one of the World’s Best Keynote Speakers.

Mitty received a Biochemical Engineering degree in Marine Sciences from Mexico’s ITESM University and an Honorary Doctorate of Fine Arts, honoris causa, from Canada’s Simon Fraser University. A committed impact investor, she is an influential voice in bridging financial returns while creating a positive social and environmental impact. Her adult children, John, Michael and Juliana, are all passionate about nature.


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